PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

BULLETIN] **MAY 15, 1943** **[No. 146**

LECTURE CXLVI.

THE FALL OF TUNIS AND BIZERTA.

THE DEBT OF DUNKIRK REPAID.

His Majesty's Message to General Eisenhower.

Throughout the 6 months during which you have been in command of the Allied Forces in N. Africa, I have watched with admiration the progress of the operations on sea, on land and in the air.

Under your leadership, forces, diverse in nationality and race, have been knit into one united and successful whole. Their task has not been easy, and the resistance of the enemy has been determined and desperate. But now, with the capture of Tunis and Bizerta, your campaign is almost concluded.

The last enemy forces in Africa are being captured or destroyed, and the debt of 'Dunkirk' has been repaid. On behalf of all my peoples, I express to you, as the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, and to all ranks under your command, our heartfelt congratulations on your victory.

FORTRESS OF EUROPE WILL CRUMBLE.

General Giraud's Broadcast to France.

Yesterday by liberating Tunis and Bizerta, the Allied Armies and the French trcops accomplished their first great victory on soil protected by France. This victory shows once more, in a striking manner, that the German Armies are not invincible.

To-morrow, May 10, is the anniversary of the German push to France. May, 1940 to May, 1943 are the 3 years since our country was thrown into slavery, as a result of the defeat of our arms, by signing the Armistice which we have since denounced. These are the 3 years during which the resistance of Frenchmen has taken shape, and has shown the world that the soul of France has never been conquered.

A handful of courageous men, animated by the pureness of their patriotism, have kept France's presence at her post in battle. In Algiers, this morning, under a brilliant sun, before going to the cathedral to offer our thanks to Joan of Arc, the Protectress of France

all could see powerful vehicles rolling past the C.-in-C. of the U. S. Army. This army which is being formed here, wants to fight, and knows how to fight.

It will be their task to liberate you and our prisoners in Germany. We can be certain that we will keep our promises. We are fighting with one aim in our minds—your liberation.

In a few days, there will no longer be any Germans in Africa. Their rule of world domination is beginning to crumble. To-morrow, the fortress of Europe will be attacked. The struggle will still be hard and may be long. Above all do not worry. Give no pretext for savage reprisals.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

8—5—43 to 14—5—43.

Tunisia.—TUNIS, the capital and BIZERTA, the chief naval base fell on Friday (May 7), and were occupied on Saturday. For details of the storming of the two cities the reader is referred to Side Lights.

Preceding their fall, the following places were taken: GARECTAEKKEL, BALD HILL, GREEN HILL, MASSICAULT, JEBEL CHENITI, JEBEL ACHKEL, JEBEL BOU AKOUAZ and ST. CYPRIENE.

FERRYVILLE fell on the same day as TUNIS and BIZERTA.

Since May 8 have fallen HAMMAM LIF, CRETEVILLE (S. E. of TUNIS), KSAR TYRE (E.S.E. of MEDJEZ EL BAB), AIN-EL-ASKAR (S.W. of TUNIS), PONT DU FAHS, MICHERGA, ZAGHOUAN, CARTHAGE and LA GOULETTE (East of TUNIS), DEPIENNE (N. E. of PONT DU FAHS), MOGHRANA (S. E. of PONT DU FAHS), ELASID and ELAIA (near TUNIS), TEBURBA and DIEDOIDA.

64,000 men, including three German Divisional Commanders and their staff have been taken prisoners.

Broken and dispirited, the enemy has sought refuge in the CAPE BON Peninsula where he is being pursued. According to the latest reports, GROMBALIA and SALIMAN, at the entrance to the Peninsula, have been captured. The Germans have withdrawn the *Luftwaffe* from the area. The British Navy, watching the sea around, has orders to 'sink, fire, or destroy' any enemy vessel that tries to escape. The situation is hopeless [*See* Side Lights.—*Ed.*]

Russia.—Fierce fighting continues in the NOVOROSSISK area. Intermittent engagements are reported in the LISICHANSK (upper Donetz) and VOLKHOV sectors, west of ROSTOV, and in the BALAKLAYA, SEVSK, and LENINGRAD and VELIKIYE LUKI areas.

The Pacific.—It is now revealed that U. S. forces occupied RUSSELL Islands (N. W. of GUADALCANAR) in February and AMCHITKA Island (in the ALEUTIANS) earlier in January, in both cases, without meeting with any enemy opposition.

On May 4, 2 Japanese aircraft carried out a harmless raid on Milne Bay.

On May 6, Japanese submarines sank 5 Allied ships off AUSTRALIA.

On May 9, Allied aircraft, attacked different targets between Dutch NEW GUINEA and NEW BRITAIN. In reply, the Japanese put up a single raid on MILLINGIMBI (near

Port DARWIN) in the N. of AUSTRALIA, and lost 2 aircraft, in the action, while three more were damaged.

There has been fierce fighting in the DOBODUBI area on the Japanese supply line from SALAMUA to MUBO. Allied ground forces have occupied BOBDUBI in NEW GUINEA.

On the night of May 9, HOROBETSU, a village in the island of HOKKAIDO included in the Japanese home country was shelled by a submarine; and on the same day a Japanese troop transport was sunk off MADANG.

Other Allied air-attacks of the week are given below :—

May 2 :—MUNDA (Enemy installations), KISKA (8 attacks in a day).

May 3 :—REKATA BAY (Enemy installations), SANTA ISABEL Island, KISKA (9 attacks), KOLOMBANGARA, VILA.

May 4 :—ATTU.

May 5 :—DABO, ARU Islands, TAJANDOE Islands, GAVEIVA (Kimba Bay), ATTU, KISKA.

May 6 :—WEWAK, TIMKA, TOEAL.

May 7 :—KISKA (6 attacks), ATTU (4 attacks), LAVELLA Island (SOLOMONS), MUNDA.

May 8 :—MADANG, FINSCHHAFEN, MUBO, TIMOR, BUBO, OZI Island, KAHILI, BALLALE.

May 10 :—KAIMANA (D. NEW GUINEA), MANOKWARI, SORONG, CERAM, UBILI (NEW BRITAIN), TALA Sea, GASMATA, CAPE GLOUCESTER, ROOKE Island (VITIAZ Straits), WEWAK, MADANG, SAIDOR, KOMIATU area, DOBODUBI.

May 11 :—BABO, MAPPI Post, AROE Islands, SAUMLAKI (TANNIMBARI Island), TALA Sea, CAPE GLOUCESTER, FINSCHHAFEN, SALAMUA, LAE, MUBO.

China.—Japanese troops have launched a fresh attack from the south-bank of the Yangtse.

American aircraft raided a Japanese air-field near CANTON on May 8.

Japanese attempts to secure a foothold on the north shore of Tungting Lake in N. HUNAN have been defeated.

Burma.—In the ARAKAN, Allied forces have been withdrawn from BUTHIDAUNG, and the battle for MAUNGDAW is proceeding.

On May 6, 20 Japanese planes attacked Allied positions in RAMU, near COX'S BAZAAR. The damage was slight.

Allied Air-targets of the week are recorded below :—

May 2:—YWATAUNG, MAYMYO, NAMKIN, MAINGKWAN, KANTAW, MYITKINA.

May 3:—SAGAING, MYITKYINA.

May 4:—TOUNGOO.

May 5:—MYINZA, INDAINGGYI, MYINGYAN, MAGWE, AKYAB Island, ALON.

May 6:—AKYAB Island, INDAINGGYI.

May 7:—MAYU Peninsula, transport on the Irrawaddy and Chindwin, MANDALAY

May 8:—MAYOHAUNG, MINDYA, KANTHA, MYINGYAN, RANGOON, MANDALAY, NATKAYANG, MONGAUNG, KAMANG, NANYASEIK.

May 9:—Transport on the Mayu river, steamers near PROME, HPAUNGZEIK Bridge, the jetty at KALEMYO.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

2—5—43 (Sunday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—(20 enemy planes shot down).

Industrial centres at IJMUIDEN (6 enemy planes and 4 allied planes missing).

NIGHT:—

Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

COMEL, MINSK, ORSHA, and BRYANSK (all in Russsia). (2 allied planes missing).

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy transport and positions in the battle areas in TUNISIA.

Axis tanks in the MASSICAULT area.

Axis shipping in the Gulf of TUNIS.

Air fields in the TUNIS area.

The docks at BIZERTA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN front.

FAR EAST.

Jap positions at MUNDA (Solomons) and KISKA (Aleutians).

Jap base at WEWAK (N. Guinea).

Enemy objectives south of BUTHIDAUNG (Burma).

An oil town on the CHINDWIN (Burma).

AKYAB area (Burma).

3—5—43. (Monday).

EUROPE.

COMEL, MINSK, ORSHA and BRYANSK (all in Russia).

DAY:—

Railway workshops at THIONVILLE in the LORRAINE.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy positions, transport and tanks in the battle areas near TUNIS and BIZERTA.

The docks at BIZERTA.

Enemy air fields in TUNISIA.

Jetties on the coast of TUNISIA.

The air field at LAMPEDUSA Island.

RUSSIA

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap installations at REKATA BAY and SANTA ISABEL Island.

Jap positions at KISKA (Aleutians).

AKYAB (Burma).

Villages in the AKYAB area (Burma).

Enemy road installations at YWATAUNG (Burma).

Ferry docks at SAGAING (Burma).

Bridges near MYITKYINA and PINBAU (Burma).

4—5—43 (Tuesday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—

Industrial targets at ANTWERP (Belgium).

The electric power station at HAGUE.

Shipping off NORWAY. (3 allied planes missing).

NIGHT:—

Industrial targets at DORTMUND in the RUHR.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Petrols over the forward areas in TUNISIA.

Enemy transport and Gun positions in the battle areas.

The docks at BIZERTA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Air base at DABO (Dutch New Guinea).

ARU Islands (6 Jap planes shot down).

Jap barges off TAJANDOE Island and LOLOBAU Islands.

Jap village of GAUEIVA (Kimbe Bay).

Petrol drums near MYINZA (Burma).

INDAINGGYI (Burma).

Marshalling yards at RANGOON.

HAINAN Island (near China).

The dock area at HAIPHONG.

5—5—43 (Wednesday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—

Ammunition and armed ships near the mouth of SEINE (blew up).

The harbours at REGI ODI CALABRIA and TARANTO (Italy).

NIGHT:—

Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

Ry. junctions of DNEPROPETROVSK, KREMENCHUG and BRYANSK (all in Russia).

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Shipping in the TUNISIAN Straits.

The harbours at TUNIS and LEGOULETTE.

Enemy troop concentrations near TUNIS.

Shipping in the Gulf of TUNIS.

The harbours at TRAPANI and MARSALA (Sicily).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap shipping and air base at WEWAK (N.Guinea).

TIMIKA (Dutch New Guinea).

Barracks at TOEAL (Kai Islands).

Buildings and ground installations at TOUNGOO (Burma).

Rail road at MYINGYAN.

VILA (Solomons).

REKATA BAY and **SANTA ISABEL Islands.**

KISKA (Aleutians).

6—5—43. (Thursday).

EUROPE.

No information available about day and night R.A.F. operations.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Axis transport and tanks in the battle areas.

Airfields near TUNIS and BIZERTA.

TUNIS and **BIZERTA.**

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN front.

FAR EAST.

Jap positions at KISKA and MUNDA (Solomons).

Jap installations at REKATA BAY and SANTA ISABEL Islands.

Jap positions in the MAYU Peninsula.

MAGWE (Burma).

AKYAB Island (Burma).

7—5—43 (Friday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—

An armed ship off BRITTANY (sunk).

Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE, and ENGLISH CHANNEL.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Axis position in and around TUNIS and BIZERTA.

Axis remnants retreating from TUNIS and BIZERTA.

Enemy shipping in the Gulf of TUNIS.

Targets in SICILY.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap installations at KISKA (Aleutians and ATTU Island).

The air field at MADAUNG (N. Guinea).

FINSCHHAFEN and MUBO area (N. Guinea).

Air-fields at KOEPANG (Timor) and BABO (Dutch New Guinea).

MU River bridge near MANDALAY (Burma).

Railroad at TOUNGOO (Burma).

Jap positions at HKANG PU (Burma).

Supply dumps in the MAYU Peninsula.

Rolling stock along the IRRAWADY and CHINDWIN Rivers.

Marshalling yards at MANDALAY.

8—5—43 (Saturday).

EUROPE.

NIGHT :—

Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

Locomotives and railway centres and trains at BRYANSK, POLTAVA and BYELGOROD (all in Russia).

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy tanks, troops and vehicles in the CAPE BON Peninsula.

Landing grounds in CAPE BON Peninsula.

The dock areas at PALERMO.

Enemy shipping in the SICILIAN straits.

Air field at PANTELLARIA (Sardinia).

PORTO EMPEDOCLE (Sardinia).

RUSSIA.

(For the week 1—5—43 to 8—5—43 Russia lost 235 planes; Axis lost 930 planes).

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap positions at KAHILI (FAROE Island) and at KALLALE (Shortlands).

Jap destroyers off OZI Island.

MUNDA (N. Georgia).

KISKA (Aleutians).

Railroad yards at RANGOON.

Railroad bridge at SINTHE (Burma).

Railway yards near MANDALAY (Burma).

Railroad bridge south of MONGAUNG (Burma).

Railroad installations at ALON (5 miles north of MONYWA) (Burma).

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

3—5—43 (Monday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

TUNISIA.

Air combats over the TUNISIAN coast (2 enemy planes shot down).

RUSSIA.

KRASNODAR area.

FAR EAST.

Port DARWIN (Australia).

4—5—43 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

NIGHT :—

A town in East ANGLIA (England).

TUNISIA.

Air combats over the TUNISIAN Coasts.

RUSSIA.

Russian air-fields in the KUBAN area.

FAR EAST.

No information available.

5—5—43 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

No air raid anywhere in BRITAIN.

TUNISIA.

Air combats over the coast of TUNISIA.

RUSSIA.

Russian communications behind the Russian lines.

6—5—43 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

No air raid anywhere in BRITAIN.

TUNISIA.

Air combats over the TUNISIAN coast.

FAR EAST.

Air combats over the BUTHIDAUNG area (2 Jap planes shot down).

7—5—43 (Friday).

BRITAIN.

A coastal town in East ANGLIA (2 Axis planes destroyed).

TUNISIA.

Air combats over the TUNISIAN coast, the town of TUNIS and BIZERTA.

RUSSIA.

LENINGRAD area.

8—5—43 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

LONDON area; A few places on the south coast of ENGLAND.

TUNISIA.

Air combats over NOVOROSSISK.

FAR EAST.

Air combats over the BUTHIDAUNG area.

SIDE LIGHTS.

AFRICAN VICTORIES. With joy in the triumph and in humble thanksgiving to the Almighty we hail the news of the great victories that have crowned the Allied arms in North AFRICA. On the afternoon of Friday (May 7) within a quarter of an hour of each other fell TUNIS, the capital of TUNISIA and BIZERTA, her great naval base. With them, a little before or after, also fell FERRYVILLE, (an air-base),

LE BARDO, (the former seat of the Bey), PONT DU FAHS, KSAR TYR, HAMMAM LIF, AIN EL ASKER, CRETIVILLE, BIR MICHERGA, ZAGHOUAN, CARTHAGE, LA GOULETTE, DEPIENNE and MOGHRANE.

The Axis collapse came about with dramatic suddenness. Responsible Allied leaders speaking a day (May 6) earlier, while confident of victory, held the view that the day of triumph was just not yet. Mr. Stimson, U. S. War Secretary for instance, thought that 'there was still no evidence of the evacuation of the Axis forces': Mr. Elmer Davis, U. S. War Information Chief considered that the enemy would make a final stand at BIZERTA; while Gen. GIRAUD was of the opinion that the Axis forces would break sometime before the end of the month.

v v v v v v v v

THE FALL OF TUNIS. But all predictions were falsified when Gen. Anderson, with 400 tanks and 2,000 aircraft launched his terrific drive on Thursday from MASSICAULT, near MEDJEZ EL BAB. Within 36 hours after the assault began, British guns and tanks, as *Reuter* tells us, 'rolled into the bomb-torn streets of TUNIS, through a road littered with masses of wrecked and abandoned war-material'. 'Out-gunned, out-generalled and above all with their morale broken', the enemy was unable to stop the flood-gates, as the British, piercing through the German centre at ST. CYPRIEN, forced their way into the city.

Covered with dust, the leading tank crews fought every inch of their way. The force of the British armour, guns and men proved over-whelming, as the victorious army crashed through the city, fighting from street to street, from house to house and hand to hand. Von Arnim's Barenthin Division and his Hermann Goering Grenadiers were completely beaten and disorganised.

v v v v v v v v

THE FALL OF BIZERTA. Thus was TUNIS gained, by a *Blitzkrieg*, such as was never before known. The fall of BIZERTA was no less spectacular, and the glory fell to the Americans. U. S. artillery, discharging shells at 40 a minute, pounded the enemy positions on the mountains. The reverberation, says *Reuter*, was like thunder; the *Wadis* were creased and torn; red flashes, with thick, gray smoke enveloped the valleys.

v v v v v v v v

TO WHOM THE HONOURS GO '*Yanks in Bizerta; British in Tunis*', says the *Journal American* dividing the honours, but the victory is shared by the French also, who, in the words of Giraud, fought side by side with the British and the Americans, 'without arms, without clothes, without boots, but believing in victory.' The French are happy to-day, as the victory has coincided with the Day (May 8), dedicated to the memory of Joan of Arc, who, five centuries ago led fallen FRANCE to victory and liberation. It is also significant that the fighting French have adopted the Joan of Arc Flag, the Red Cross of LORRAINE—as the symbol of their determination to regain FRANCE, including LORRAINE.

v v v v v v v v

THE BRITISH FIRST ARMY. In this hour of triumph, however, a tribute, in special, is due to the British First Army, who rose to the occasion. Until recently Gen. Anderson's men have had a disappointing time, first in

November, when the Germans, in anticipation, established themselves in the horn of TUNISIA, and later, by being pushed back to MEDJEZ EL BAB.

v v v v v v v v

THE EIGHTH ARMY. We are happy to relate that in the assault on TUNIS Montgomery's 8th Army which had led up to this victory, through six months of hard campaigning, over 1,400 miles of hill and desert, from EL ALAMEIN to ENFIDAVILLE, had also its share. One of its units, the 11th Hussars, was switched from ENFIDAVILLE to MEDJEZ., at high speed, in order to take part in the final lap, and it was a joint First and Eighth Army, composed of tankmen who had fought all the way from EGYPT, that first rammed their way into the city.

v v v v v v v v

TO SURRENDER OR NOT TO SURRENDER. The pursuit has not ceased. The enemy, disorgainsed and routed is falling back upon the CAPE BON Peninsula, in the vain hope of gaining some respite. 64,000 prisoners, have already been taken. Some 120,000 troops have been encircled. The Allied forces are milling round the retreating forces. Where will the Germans now stand? Will they stand at all? If not, what is their fate to be? The Radio France, ALGIERS, has said, 'The Axis Forces are pressed against the sea. They can only surrender or be drowned. If the Axis attempts embarkation, it will mean a catastrophe. The British Fleet bars the way to SICILY and Allied aircraft dominate the African sky.'

[Since this was written the CAPE BON Peninsula has been captured, with further large numbers of prisoners including the German and Italian Commanders-in-Chief Von Arnim and Messe. The campaign is at an end.—*Ed.*]

v v v v v v v v

THE ALLIED AIR ASSAULTS have been terrific. On the 7th alone 2,500 sorties were flown, concentrated in an area of 4 miles—17,000 yards. On that day, at sea, 12 Axis ships were sunk, and 15 were damaged, including a destroyer, 7 barges and 4 boats.

v v v v v v v v

THE AFRICAN DISEASE. Mussolini was evidently aware of the coming disaster. Speaking to a crowd assembled outside the Palazzo Venezia last week, he announced the extinction of his Italian Empire which had ceased to exist within 6 years of its formation. For once, he spoke the truth when he said that the wish to regain it was an 'African disease', but the next moment, with his wonted bravado he stated the loss to be temporary, and described his defeat as a 'pause.' But the speech betrayed the fear in his heart, fear of foes within and foes without. 'Bullets for traitors', he shouted, and this has been the way of the tyrants from the dawn of history.

v v v v v v v v

HITLER'S DEFENCE PREPARATIONS. Hitler has occupied RHODES as part of his preparations to defend the Eastern Mediterranean. RHODES, 60 miles by 50, is Italian-administered. It is the largest island in the DODECANESE Group. Famous in the past for its Colossus, it is now important as a naval and air-base. It lies 10 miles from the coast of TURKEY in Asia.

HITLER'S 'CAIRO.' Hitler is reported to have established his Mediterranean Defence Headquarters in the Istrian Peninsula, hidden at the topmost corner of the Adriatic. The Peninsula is triangular in shape, with TRIESTE, FIUME and POLA at the corners. POLA is to be a U-boat base; it is centrally situated, 650 sea miles from MALTA, 1,200 miles from ALEXANDRIA, and 1,650 miles from GIBRALTAR. Here Allied submarines can only penetrate with difficulty, while air-bombardment is possible. POLA is as far from TUNIS, as BERLIN is from LONDON. Bombardment by surface warships is ruled out as the long, narrow way through the Adriatic is guarded by Axis air bases throughout.

v v v v v v v v

HITLER CONFERS WITH PAVELITCH Following the news of Hitler's Mediterranean Headquarters comes the report of his conference with Pavelitch, the puppet Croat leader and there is a reason for it. ISTRIA lies near CROATIA, and of late, Croat guerillas have been giving trouble.

v v v v v v v v

CROAT GUERILLAS. When the Axis invaded YUGOSLAVIA, ITALY occupied large portions of DALMATIA and SLOVENIA, which the Croats never forgave. The guerilla activity which extends to-day from ALBANIA to ISTRIA is the result of this irritation. The guerilla organisation (The Slovenski Nationalni Oslobodilacki Pockret) commands the railway lines from LJUBLJANE to TRIESTE and FIUME, where lie GERMANY's Assembly yards and warehouses for the requirements of the Eastern Mediterranean defence. Hitler, naturally worried about the security of his new bases, has asked for drastic punitive action against the guerillas.

v v v v v v v v

BULGARIA IN A STATE OF SIEGE. Martial Law has been proclaimed in the Black Sea coastal territory of BULGARIA, against possible attacks by Russian parachutists. The Bulgarian—Turkish frontier has been closed since Wednesday. The Germans have evacuated the coastal area. BULGARIA is said to be in a state of siege.

v v v v v v v v

DEPORTATIONS AND ARRESTS. Hitler is said to have demanded the deportation to GERMANY of all Frenchmen between the ages of 18 and 40. All Republican Spaniards and members of the former Spanish Republican Government now residing in FRANCE have been arrested.

v v v v v v v v

KIDNAPPED. Dutchmen have kidnapped the daughter of Dr. Seyss Inquart, Holland's Gauleiter and are holding her as a hostage.

v v v v v v v v

STRIKE. 500,000 people have struck work in SOFIA and 7,000 arrests have been made.

v v v v v v v v

SABOTAGE. In OSLO harbour, four ships have been blown up by saboteurs and the office of Registration of Norwegian Workers for GERMANY has been burnt.

Extensive sabotage is reported at TURIN (The Fiat works), MILAN and GENOA.

NEW CONCENTRATION CAMPS. In GERMANY itself new concentration camps have been opened to deal with 'politically unreliable persons'.

v v v v v v v v

FALSE PROPAGANDA. In order to divert attention from this unsatisfactory state of things, Goebbels is inventing fairy tales of U-boat successes, though he too has had to admit that the sinkings have gone down of late. One such story is the sinking of the U. S. aircraft-carrier, *Ranger*, which never happened; another is a Japanese air raid on CALCUTTA on April 26, as true as that on JAMSHEDPUR on March 26.

Of late, Nazi propaganda has also assumed the rôle of injured innocence. The tale now is that the war was forced on an unwilling GERMANY by Anglo-Saxon capitalism. In his speech on April 19, Goebbels exclaimed, 'how many times did the Fuehrer attempt to prevent the out-break of war—this drama of nations.' No doubt we shall hear more speeches in a similar strain as the military situation deteriorates for GERMANY. But the Allies have a pretty long memory. Not long ago, on Sep. 30, 1940, Goebbels said, "War is the most communal action of a nation"; in March 1940, Dr. Ley harangued, "War is no scourge of God, but a blessing of the Almighty"; and earlier still, in *Mein Kampf*, Hitler wrote, "Peace can be guaranteed only by the triumphant sword of a people endowed with a power to master the world."

Two more tricks in the Goebbelisian repertoire that came into recent prominence may be mentioned: one relates to the development of the UKRAINE and the other is the fairy tale about the Pacific.

v v v v v v v v

THE UKRAINE MYTH. When the German army launched its summer offensive last year Goebbels said that with the whole of the UKRAINE in German hands, economically, the war had been won.

But the facts have proved otherwise. RUSSIA's 'scorched earth' policy resulting in the destruction of the Dneprosteroi Dam and the removal of machinery and operators from the UKRAINE area has rendered production uneconomical. At first the blame was laid on frost, and finally on the 'Bolshevist system', which had deprived the Ukrainian peasant of the power 'to work independently.' So the exploitation of the UKRAINE still remains a dream and the varying shifts to which Nazi propaganda is driven are themselves a confession of the failure.

v v v v v v v v

THE PACIFIC FAIRY TALE. Another recent device of Dr. Goebbels has been to play up Japanese naval and air strength in the Pacific, in order to shift the emphasis from the Allied African and European victories to the Japanese Pacific 'successes' as though any Japanese success is going to help Hitler out of his present danger. Though it is true that of late there has been a concentration of Japanese submarines and aircraft in the South West Pacific, the net result achieved so far has been only the sinking of one or two small Allied vessels at the cost of a large number of planes. On the other hand the Japanese have lost at least 90,000 tons of shipping since April 14, and on the whole Japanese strength has seriously suffered in the Pacific waters.

The Japanese bases in S. W. Pacific are said to be about 60 in number. The most important of these are WEWAK (NEW GUINEA), RABAUL (NEW BRITAIN), TRUK Island, KENDARI (CELEBES) and KOEPANG (TIMOR). Most of these, as the reader knows, have been under constant Allied fire. If cannot be repeated often enough that side by side with the Japanese moves in the area the Allies are simultaneously frustrating the enemy's efforts in the SOLOMONS, in NEW GUINEA and in the far off ALEUTIANS. The recent occupation of the island of FUNAFATI is of great importance. This island which belongs to the Ellice group lies between FIGI Island and the GILBERT group, and its occupation makes it impossible for the Japanese to dominate the sea-route between AUSTRALIA and AMERICA. The recent expulsion of an enemy convoy heading for WEWAK is an indication of Allied growing strength in the South. The raid on KUNDARI in the CELEBES in another such indication. To these may be added in proof, the raids on MUNDA, over a hundred and ten since November, and on KISKA, 129 in April alone.

v v v v v v v v

TOWARDS UNION. It is expected that before long a meeting between Gen. de Gaulle and Gen. Giraud will take place and Gen. Catroux's shuttling, back and forth, between LONDON and ALGIERS will bear fruit. According to Press reports, a compromise is within sight. The points of difference have now narrowed down to two. One is that as regards an interim administration for the present Gen. de Gaulle favours a coalition of the French National Committee, the North African Administration, the French Parliamentarians outside FRANCE and Delegates of the French underground movement, while Giraud is for a Colonial Committee on which each geographical area of the French Empire will be represented. The second difference relates to the future administration when FRANCE is free, Gen de Gaulle favouring the continuance of the present provisional Government, and Giraud, arguing for the retention of power in the Commander-in-Chief, till the elections restores the ancient republic.

v v v v v v v v

RUSSO-POLISH RELATIONS still continue to be unsatisfactory—Goebbels is doing his best—we mean, his worst, to divide the two nations. To the tale of KATIN he has now added the ODESSA 'murders', and has proclaimed the 'discovery' of another mass-grave, this time filled with the corpses of Rumanians alleged to have been shot by the O. G. P. U. during the Russian occupation of BUKOVINA and BESSARABIA. But the Polish Government have seen through the game. In his speech on Poland's National Day (May 5), Gen. Sikorski, alluding to the recent burning of 10 villages, in LUBLIN by the Nazis, 'most of them, with all the inhabitants' stated, 'this is one more act of bestiality which has placed an unbridgeable abyss between the Germans and the Poles'; and, on May 6, he added. 'The Germans have been for ages, the common and implacable enemies of both the Poles and the Russians. The Polish Nation, wants, of course, to continue its friendly relations with RUSSIA and base them on an alliance directed against GERMANY'.

Stalin's reaction to these sentiments, as revealed in a letter of his published in the *Times* on May 6, was equally satisfactory. He said that what the U. S. S. R. desired was a strong and independent POLAND placed on 'a basis of solid, good, neighbourly relations

with RUSSIA'. What with Stalin's frank letter and Sikorski's unequivocal denunciation of Germans the breach appeared to be closing, but the later pronouncement of Vyshinsky, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, and the Polish Foreign Minister's reply thereto, have set the ball of crimination and recrimination rolling once again. The Russian Minister accuses the Polish Government, her Press and her officials of Pro-Hitler sympathies; he says the Polish Government has asked the Polish troops in RUSSIA not to fight against GERMANY, and that it is false to say that the Russian Government has prevented any Poles from leaving RUSSIA. The Polish Minister, in return, complains that the Polish Army in RUSSIA was never properly equipped or fed, and that the return of the civilian Poles was rendered difficult by reason of their deportation to distant parts of RUSSIA.

The latest news from MOSCOW is reassuring. According to it the U. S. S. R. has decreed the formation of a Polish Division in the Soviet Union for joint action with the Red Army.

v v v v v v v v

THE U. S. COAL STRIKE in which half a million men are said to be involved is the outcome of a wage dispute between the United Mine Workers, whose President is Mr. John L. Lewis and the U. S. War Labour Board. The workers have flouted President Roosevelt's injunction that mines, as a major war industry should keep working. President Roosevelt has ordered the seizure of the mines.

A complicating feature is the personality of Mr. Lewis whose record is isolationist and whose method is to use the present opportunity to rise to power. The real issues however are being tackled, as is evident from President Roosevelt's message to the workers, in which he said, 'Prices of essentials will be brought down, rents have been fixed in most parts of the country, food prices will be established'.

v v v v v v v v

FOOD-GRAIN SUPPLY IN PUDUKKOTTAI. We are glad to learn that the Pudukkottai Government have made arrangements to sell their employees, including menial servants, their annual requirements of paddy at cost price, through the Pudukkottai Employees' Central Co-operative Stores. Should the price not be paid for the whole annual requirement at once the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, will arrange, on application, to conserve the total quantity required for the year and have it issued in monthly instalments on payment of cash.

THE MEDITERRANEAN.

(*The Times of India*).

As the day approaches when the Germans will be forced, by surrender, evacuation or annihilation, to yield their last stronghold in North Africa, it is worth recalling that, in Mr. Churchill's own words, the object of the United Nations' immediate campaign is to regain command of the Mediterranean. That is to say, the Allies intend to recover the use of the Mediterranean for their sea traffic and to deny its use to their enemies. The question will be asked whether it will be possible for the Allies to make use of the Mediterranean sea lane once they have gained complete control of the land mass to the south. Experience shows that where a convoy is protected by fighters it stands a very good

chance of surviving. A recent Murmansk convoy, though its escort consisted of only one aircraft-carrier, got through with the loss of no more than 30 per cent, despite intense German air attacks continued almost incessantly for five days.

It is reasonable to hope then that, if the Allies can establish land-based fighter cover over the coastal belt of the Southern Mediterranean, their chances of making effective use of the ocean for sea-going traffic are good. According to Rear-Admiral H. G. Thursfield in a recent article in the *National Review*, "there should be no greater difficulty in the free use by the Allies of the sea route from end to end of the Mediterranean than there is to-day of that of the English Channel and the North Sea." He goes on to say that the building up of Allied forces throughout North Africa should present no greater difficulty than does the building up of American forces in Britain at the present time. If this is so, the reinforcement of British forces in the Near East will no longer involve a voyage of 10,000 miles, and the transport route of American forces will be shortened correspondingly. What will be the next move? It is anybody's guess. It may be a landing in Sardinia, or Sicily, or Crete. It is just as well that there should be several alternatives, so that we may keep the enemy guessing.

MEDITERRANEAN: ALLIED SUBMARINE ACTIVITY.

In a despatch dated April 25, *Reuter's* special correspondent on board a submarine mothership somewhere in the Mediterranean writes :—

"Allied operations in the Mediterranean have been so successful that Axis convoys have more escorts than targets. Sinkings by submarines have been, and are now, so heavy that when the history of this campaign is written it will be shown that the part played by submarines was a decisive one."

140 SHIPS SINCE ALAMEIN.

In the six months since General Montgomery opened his offensive at El Alamein (October 23, 1942) Admiralty communiqués have reported the sinking by submarines of 18 Axis warships and 122 Axis supply ships in the Mediterranean.

"But this attack on enemy supply lines," said Lieut-Com. Thomas Woodroffe in a broadcast from London on February 11, 1943, "is not the only job our boats have had to do in the Mediterranean. They have had jobs of a Scarlet Pimpernel kind. They spirited General Giraud away from France, to produce him for an astonished world in North Africa. They landed American generals on unfrequented parts of the North African coast and brought them away when they had finished their business. They have landed Commando units in Libya, far behind the enemy's lines. When Malta was running short of supplies—and especially of petrol for her aircraft—the submarines were called upon... So our Spitfires were kept in the air over Malta by our submarines."

HITLER'S STRATEGY.

The key to Hitler's strategy of world conquest was the creation of a Eurafrican bloc. The Mediterranean hinge between the two continents is the 75-mile Sicilian Narrows which (after Wavell proved that the Italian Army was incapable of conquering Egypt unaided—final battle February 6, 1941) was covered by between 500 and 700 German

planes based on Sicily. The effect was to exclude British surface patrols from the Sicilian "moat," thus lowering the "drawbridge" between Europe and Africa for German reinforcements to pass in great strength.

SOLITARY STUMBLING-BLOCK.

It was about this time that Captain G. O. C. Simpson arrived in Malta to begin a two-years tour of duty as commander of a British submarine flotilla operating from the island base. He received this signal from the C. in-C., Mediterranean Fleet (Admiral Cunningham); "Your flotilla is on its way out to you in ones and twos. Your job is to prevent Axis ships reaching Tripoli. Malta is your base. How you achieve your object is up to you."

Thus a few submarines represented the sole stumbling-block in the path of the German Afrika Korps. Not until January 1943, did British destroyers re-enter the Sicilian Narrows.

The main difficulty facing the submarine commanders was the shortness of the Axis routes:—

		Sea miles.
Cape Littino (Crete) to Tobruk	...	175
Cape Passero (Sicily) to Tripoli	...	240
Cape Passero to Benghazi	...	360

Axis ships, at a speed of 15 knots, could cover 120 sea miles in the eight hours of darkness between 8 p. m. and 4 a. m., leaving the submarines only from four to 16 hours of daylight in which to locate and attack their targets. There was therefore no time for stalking and much depended upon infallible timing of interception. Finally, the submarines were unable to surface within torpedo range owing to 100 per cent Axis air protection of all routes. An interesting point arises here. It is a fact that in the clear waters of the Mediterranean a submarine is not invisible to aircraft until she is deeper than 90 feet, so the "crash-dive" loses much of its value as a form of evasive action This helps to explain the success of Africa-based aircraft in sinking no less than 11 Axis U-boats in the past six months.

THE RESULTS.

In 1941, eight Axis divisions in Africa required a minimum of 4,000 tons of supplies daily, i. e., one 2,500-ton ship per day. It is estimated that, during 1941 and 1942, Axis ships undertook 720 voyages to Africa. Of these, British submarines sank 210 (30 per cent) and heavily damaged 61 (8 per cent), leaving Rommel's Army with a mere 60 per cent of its scheduled strength for the final decision in the Battle of Egypt. Six weeks before the crucial battle opened on October 23, 1942, our submarines opened their heaviest offensive ever, which resulted in not a single tanker reaching Rommel in time to meet Montgomery's assault. This may account for the fact that the *Luftwaffe* launched only one attack on the Eighth Army in the first four days' fighting at El Alamein, and also the abandonment of more than 500 aircraft in good condition on the air-fields between El Alamein and El Agheila.

Meanwhile, Axis U-boats were engaged in a similar attempt to intercept Allied supplies bound for Africa. Every factor overwhelmingly favoured the U-boats. To begin with, the distance from Liverpool to Aden, *via* the Cape is 50 times the distance from

Naples to Benghazi. For at least half of this long voyage of 12,000 miles our ships had no air escort. The U-boats—even where there were air patrols—could operate on the surface and, in an emergency, crash-dive to safety in the murky waters of the Atlantic. The supply ships were open to attack for weeks on end, compared with a matter of hours in the Central Mediterranean. For every British submarine in commission there were up to five U-boats. Yet, despite all these advantages, the U-boats failed so completely that 50,000 British troops rounded the Cape every month from January to June 1942 and won the Battle of Egypt.

THE PERSONAL ELEMENT.

The superiority of British submarine crews is one of the incontrovertible fact, which have emerged from operations in this war. Here are three examples :—

(1) A typical British submarine commander enters the Royal Navy at the age of 13 spends 4-5 years at the Royal Naval College, two years on a capital ship, three at submarine schools, two in submarines as junior officer, three months on a Commanding Officer's course, two years commanding a coastal submarine. Only then does he begin to command ocean-going submarines. The commander of the British submarine *Torbay*, for instance, has spent no less than 13 years in submarines; 12 of his ratings have served a total of 114 years in the submarine service.

Contrast this with the case of the German *U.570*, which surrendered on her firss voyage. Her commander and five other officers, 11 of the 15 Petty Officers and 25 of the 26 ratings had no operational experience.

(2) In the summer of 1940, Axis shipping in the Mediterranean totalled 2,331,291 tons, In the 28 months from August 23, 1940, to January 23, 1943, British submarines sank 1,000,000 tons—43 per cent of the target.

In 1939 British and European Allied shipping totalled 30,840,000 tons. In the 28 months from the beginning of the war to the end of 1941 Axis U-boats sank not more than 7,250,000 tons—24 per cent of the target.

(3) These comparisons are put directly to the test when submarines meet U-boats in direct combat. The British submarine *Upholder* has sunk three U-boats. Another British submarine, operating in the Straits of Messina in March 1942, sank the brand new Italian U-boat *Ammiraglio Millo*.

THE BALKANS ARE WORRIED.

(Leonard Kirschen).

Spring has come at last. This fourth war spring has brought many a worry and many a headache, especially to the Balkans. The man responsible for most of this trouble is Hitler himself, for did he not say—he, the infallible Hitler—that he did not know where the British and Americans would strike ?

No country can see and observe German indecision and worry so well as the Balkan countries. These countries, of weak military and political structure, the same countries

that gave in to the big bad bully and made him their overlord and protector, now see that the game is practically up as far as they are concerned.

Rumania, after losing two-thirds of her army on the Russian front, has started pondering over the problem whether it was really worth it. The opposition parties are making themselves felt, although their opposition is still strictly limited to underground activity. The muddle here increases every day. Replying to one of the opposition leader's memorandums which criticised the Government's policy, the Rumanian Quisling, Marshal Antonescu, issued a long memorandum containing 60 pages of tearful justification. The opposition spread this memorandum throughout the country. Result : a decree making punishable the reproduction of all memoirs and letters written by the Royal family and the Dictator, if permission for the publication is not granted. Thus the distribution of Antonescu's own justification has become a crime punishable with the concentration camp.

In Bulgaria, the Government has found it necessary to conduct a campaign of "popular enlightenment." Ministers and Deputies tour the country in order to justify to a sullen population the Government's pro-Axis policy. Only the other day Radoslavov, the Bulgarian Minister of Communications, took with him 1,500 commandeered railway workers to provide a cheering chorus to one of these provincial meetings held at Tarnavo. The Bulgarians are extremely pro-Russian, and it is very difficult to convince the Bulgarian people that there is difference between the Tsarist régime and the present Russia. The people do not believe it at all, because, after all, Russians are Russians.

In Yugoslavia the most gallant epic of the war is being written by General Draga Mihailovich and his hundred thousand. Unceasingly and untiringly they harass the Germans and Italians. Italian official figures for the last year show that the number of killed in the Balkans is slightly higher than those in North Africa, and only just below the number of killed in Russia—which is not a bad certificate for Mihailovich.

And what are the Italians worth? One Italian officer taken prisoner is exchanged for an automatic pistol, and an Italian solidier is worth a sack of flour or several hundred rounds of ammunition. As for an Italian general, Mihailovich can only get a light tank for him.

The much-tried Greek people seem to have awakened from the forced slumber of sheer exhaustion. Greek guerillas blow up bridges and chemical factories, besiege Italians in western Macedonia till they are driven off by squadrons of Italian planes. This last kind of warfare is what the Italians excel in, and it reminds them of the famous days of the Abyssinian campaign, when the glorious squadron comprising Bruno Mussolini and Ciano machine-gunned and bombed Abyssinian women and children fleeing through the mustard-gas infested bushes.

And while this is going on, the danger is approaching : Bucharest is being evacuated: Sofia, Varna, Burgas and other Bulgarian towns are following suit. Shelters are being dug, archives transported to the country. Yes, the horrors of war are near, and as the Axis satellites know what sort of war their masters have been waging, they are afraid of just reprisals.

THE TERROR IN NORWAY.

GROWING DISBELIEF IN GERMAN VICTORY.

From a Norwegian Correspondent. (*The Times—Jan. 13, 1943.*)

After nearly three years of Nazi terror and oppression, the Norwegian people are facing a new year under conditions of increasing physical and mental strain. But every new German blow seems only to harden the people still more and to strengthen their resistance. The coming of the New Year holds out definite hope to them. The turning of the war in Russia, in North Africa, and in the Pacific, are signs they cannot mistake. They do not need to read the reports of these battles, brought into their country through hundreds of forbidden channels, to learn the truth—which their own Nazi controlled papers and broadcasts still try to keep from them. They can read it clearly and convincingly in the eyes and behaviour both of the Germans and of their own quislings; they can feel how fear is growing within their ranks.

The growing oppression reached its climax during the week of terror in Trondheim early in October. Although the state of Emergency was not declared until October 6, German circles in Trondheim knew as early as October 3 that it would be introduced. The district of Troendelag was chosen because the province had great military importance, and also because it would be a convenient excuse to get rid of 24 young farmers from the parish of Grane who had been arrested on a charge of hiding arms and ammunition. Their executions were promptly carried out during the next two days.

EXECUTION OF HOSTAGES.

It was decided in advance that 10 hostages were to be shot in Trondheim. One of the prospective hostages happened to be in another part of the country and was not found by the Gestapo until the day after the executions. But there had to be 10 hostages, so another leading Norwegian, Captain Berg, was arrested and shot in his place. He was seen walking in the streets of Trondheim about midday. Not many hours later his execution was announced. On October 6, Terboven, the Reichskommissar, and the Rediess' the German Gestapo Chief, drove through the town followed by police on motor-cycles with mounted machine-guns. At the same time trains were arriving from Oslo packed with Gestapo men, S. S. troops, and Norwegian State Police.

After a conference with his *aides*, Terboven announced publicly that the people of Trondheim would "soon know" that the Germans were "serious in their intentions." Only a few people heard the announcement of the execution of 10 of Trondheim's leading citizens, which was reported shortly after 8 o' clock at night. Not even their relatives were told; they learned of the fate of their husbands, fathers, and sons from the next morning's newspapers.

To-day complete chaos reigns within the administration of the quisling party. None of the party leaders knows the exact number of members in the party, and thus it has occurred that old members have received threatening letters urging them to join the party. A member of the Tromso quisling organization recently stated that the majority of the members in Northern Norway would leave the party if they were allowed to do so. They now believe that the Germans cannot win the war, and they wish for peace more than anything else.

The visit to Norway during the last week of November of the Chief of Staff of the German S. A., Victor Lutze, which was described in the German-controlled Norwegian Press as a private visit to Terboven, had actually a much more serious background. Disagreements within the quisling party, and especially the growing dissatisfaction within the Hird, the quisling S. A., had led to incidents reminiscent of the crisis within the German Nazi party which led to the June 30 terrorist outburst. Lutze has been considered one of the leading German "experts" in the matter of dealing with dissatisfied elements. This seems to have been the main reason for his sudden journey to Norway.

A LEGION FOR RUSSIA.

The dissatisfaction within the Hird reached a climax in the autumn when Quisling ordered the mobilization of 3,000 Hird members between the ages of 18 and 45 to fight on the Eastern Front. This meant that more than one-third of all male members of the quisling party were mobilized. The opposition to this calling-up grew with dangerous rapidity, and Quisling had to use force to carry through the mobilization. Those who refused to join up were arrested. In this way he succeeded in filling the ranks of the "Norwegian Legion," but the target of 3,000 was never reached.

It became necessary to find some activity for the Hird which would divert their attention. On November 21 Lutze arrived in Oslo, and in the following days the Hird were let loose on the Norwegian Jews. To what degree this will satisfy the Hird time alone will show. Meanwhile the "Norwegian Legion" fighting on the eastern front has been disbanded as a result of "incidents" and the members incorporated in the ranks of the German forces.

As Germany's condition is growing more precarious, both mentally and materially, increased terror and looting stalk side by side through the occupied countries. The Norwegian people are now being robbed of almost every ounce of staple food. The Germans take nearly all their meat, fish and vegetables. The Norwegians are left to exist on a small diet of swedes and poor quality potatoes mixed with some sort of gravy. Butter can still be had, but the bread is poor. There is no starvation yet, but every one is hungry. In spite of everything, however, thanks to the achievements of the allied armed forces, the Norwegian people enter the New Year more confident than ever that the day will come when the Nazi oppressors will be driven from their land.

REFINEMENTS OF CRUELTY.

LATER.

Further details are now available about the executions in Trondheim at the beginning of October. They provide another example of the extremes of sadism to which the Germans in Norway, and other occupied countries, have gone.

The 10 prominent citizens of Trondheim who were executed as hostages had to listen to the announcement of their own deaths over the wireless. They were not shot till the morning after the broadcast.

The Germans apparently considered this an ingenious innovation, and when subsequently 24 more Norwegians were executed, they, too, were shot on the day after the actual announcement of their deaths, after having been given the opportunity to listen to the wireless report of their execution.

hold mutually conflicting views with apparent sincerity. His continual demands for clearer definition of British aims may serve a useful purpose if they force us to state our case more openly. But at this moment in the relations between the two countries it is vital that a man who may be the next President should speak with authority, knowledge and responsibility. Presidential campaigns should not be waged in Moscow, Cairo, or Chungking. Isolationism, not India, should be the domestic battle to be fought. It is certain that any man who strives to move the Republican party towards a responsible internationalism is a friend of Britain, Europe and the world.

NON-STOP RAIDS ON JAP BASES.

R. A. F.'s FINE RECORD FOR APRIL.

ENEMY IN BURMA GIVEN NO REST.

R. A. F. operations over Burma and India in April are reviewed in a Press Note which says: On the 1st of last month the R. A. F. celebrated its 25th birthday. 11 Huricanes of the India Command made it a day to remember in S-E. Bengal, when they intercepted 30 Japanese bombers, with fighter escort, which attacked Feni villages.

Our fighter destroyed 5 of the raiders, probably destroyed 3 more, and damaged several others. One of our aircraft was shot down, but the pilot baled out. It was a good beginning for a month in which every day found the R. A. F. carrying the attack to the enemy in Burma.

Early in April, the tonnage of bombs dropped by the R. A. F. on Japanese-occupied Burma this year passed the 1,000th mark. The targets most consistently attacked were air-fields, transport and enemy positions in the Arakan.

A feature of the month's operations was the number of casualties inflicted on Japanese troops. One especially successful attack was on April 14 when R. A. F. fighters caught 6 power launches full of Japanese troops off Ramree Island, south of Akyab. Every launch was sunk, and from the number of bodies seen in the water afterwards it was evident that the percentage of casualties was high.

ENEMY CASUALTIES.

An exact estimate of the casualties inflicted on the enemy from the air is, of course, impossible, but it is safe to say that the total for April amounts to some hundreds.

Although the R. A. F. specialised in co-operating with our Land Forces by attacks on the enemy in Arakan, other parts of Burma were not neglected. A series of day and night attacks was made on air-fields, such as Shwebo, Meiktila and Toungoo. Railway stations, tracks and installations were bombed with good results. Throughout the month, low-level attacks were made on motor transport, rolling stock and river craft, ranging from supply sampans to good-sized river steamers.

In these operations, the Beaufighter—whose presence in India was announced on April 11—has been most successful. The concentrated fire-power of this aircraft—the most heavily armed fighter in the world—enables it to inflict severe damage or destruction on targets such as Japanese supply craft, lorries, factory buildings and railway engines.

Night bombing was carried out on 15 nights last month. Most of the attacks were on air-fields—including two long-range trips to Tavoy, on the Tenasserim-Siam Peninsula. Of the other operations, the best attack was on Rangoon marshalling yards, where a number of large bombs caused considerable damage.

JAPS' AIR EFFORT.

The enemy air effort, as usual, was not on a scale comparable with that of the R. A. F. A few attacks were made in S-E. Bengal, and there were two raids on Imphal. Since January no attacks have been made at night.

During April 11, R. A. F. aircraft were shot down, 10 of them on offensive operations. Our pilots destroyed 6 Japanese aircraft, probably destroyed 8 and damaged at least another 25. To these must be added 3 enemy aircraft shot down by A-A fire, and a number of others damaged.

EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT OF BURMA TO-DAY.

It is not often that one obtains a first-hand pen-picture of Fascism at work in the East from a person whose *bona fides* are above reproach. M. Thein Pe, who has embodied his views and experiences in *What Happened in Burma* (published by Kitabistan, **Allahabad**), cannot be accused of any partiality towards the former régime in Burma. He was a leader of the Upper Burma Units of the National Revolutionary Party, a secret organization which for a time actively collaborated with the Japanese. Later, after having had a taste of Japanese rule, the young man made some outspoken comments about it, and was forced to "go underground". During this period he travelled about a good deal in Burma, and gained invaluable information about the nature and functions of the Scourge of Asia. He has since escaped to India where his book has been written.

MYTH OF "INDEPENDENCE"

The writer was among those whose political theories led them to believe that the difficulties of Britain and her Allies might prove to be Burma's opportunity, forgetting that "he who sups with the Devil must have a long spoon"; and he relates his disillusionment on discovering that Japanese "independence" for Burma was a myth. As General Lida the Japanese C.-in-C. in Burma made it clear "to grant Burma independence during the war is impracticable and unthinkable. Your fate lies with the Japanese victory". The Tokyo broadcast made on the installation of "the new government in Burma" stated:—

"The new government will work in collaboration with the Japanese military administration, and the supreme power will be vested in the C.-in-C. The government budget and other particularly important problems will be tackled by the Japanese military administration. Nippon government is entirely absorbed in its war efforts.. Burmans must learn to regard Japan's war as their war".

THE JAP SOLDIER.

The Japanese soldier is shown to be a brigand of an extreme type. Stories of his atrocities abound. But his day-to-day pilfering and bullying are no less characteristic than the extreme forms of barbarism of which there is so much evidence. To quote :—

"Japanese soldiers get into a kitchen with or without the peoples consent and take away salt and fish or anything they like. Japanese soldiers visit shops and take away what they want without paying. Even the bazaars are frequently raided by the Japanese, for that is the effect of a Japanese bargain.

"They are addicted to plunder like the vultures to carcasses. They are very fond of gold and money. They took away, or rather stole, watches, plates, silverware and slippers. Peasants are in the habit of keeping their life savings during such times in haystacks. This the Japs knew and they got them. Bullocks are snatched away........

"Our *pongyis* (Buddhist monks) are the hardest hit victims of Jap barbarism. The *pongyis* of Mingunkyayung in Kyaukse were forced to wash the clothes of the Japs and draw water for them.

"Most of these invaders have note books which give them some smattering knowledge of Burmese. The first sentence usually is, 'The Japanese are fighting for Burmese freedom', and the second famous sentence is, 'Are there young pretty girls somewhere here?'

The writer then goes on to show how Shintoism is being subtly imposed on the Burmese, and their violent reaction to it. "I take all Japanese advisers and Minami to be spying hell-hounds of Japan.........Minami is exploiting Burmese Buddhist religion to consolidate Japanese power in Burma...All propaganda forms are totalitarianized."

THE ECONOMIC PICTURE.

The picture painted is one of confusion progressively intensifying itself into an unalterable chaos. Paper currency is manufactured and distributed *ad lib.* Transport is disorganised ; imports from all countries including Japan have stopped.

The thoroughness of the scorched-earth policy applied to the British oil-holdings gave the invaders plenty of trouble. "There in the oil-fields", says Thein Pé, "you can see the half clad and sweating Japanese toiling hard to clear the débris, and the spectacled officer of the Japanese engineering corps at a loss to know where to begin the work of reconstruction, while the gutted derricks around them depict nothing but dejection."

"Agriculture was disturbed in certain districts......the disorganization in canal management and the folly of Japanese soldiers, all hinder the ordinary course of agriculture.

"Imported goods are running out. So far Japan was taking away what manufactured goods could be seized in Burma. Thus they shipped 30,000 bags of sugar from Zeyawaddy Grant, presumably to Japan itself".

The price of commodities necessary for every-day use was inevitably skyrocketed. A cake of soap costs a rupee, a needle Rs. 2, and a box of matches $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas. Rice is rotting in some parts, and starvation is acute in others, thanks to inadequate transport. (This account was composed about six months ago).

THE AUTHOR'S CONCLUSION.

Despite this grave and gloomy picture of the situation, the writer believes that Burma's terrible experiences have taught her a valuable political lesson. "The advanced opinion of Burma", he says, "now boldly stands by world's progressive forces. They know that man's progress is absolute and certain".

He feels that promises which have to be implemented in a distant future have made many a Burmese heart-sick. But everyone is sure of one thing, and that is that there can be no truck with the Japanese. His counsel for those who have ears to hear is:—

"If there is any good thought about Japan or Germany in any Indian mind let it go instantly. A United Nation's victory will not allow a free India to emerge a Fascist India."

He repeats the warning that the Japanese is a terrible phenomenon; that India has fortunately been spared his atrocities up to now, and has good prospects of defending herself in the future, is due to her presence in the camp of the United Nations. He admonishes:—

> "And every worker and peasant must know that Japan or Germany, by the very new order of capitalist exploitation that they have adopted, cannot pay him better wages and higher prices for his work and his yield. Their system requires that the people must all go further down in their living standards."

The young realist's parting word is reserved for India:—

> "While fighting on your own initiative to smash Fascism, you gather strength and that strength will bring you India's independence. That is the message from Burma. She has suffered much. May Indians be helped to take right decisions for their country by a study of *What Happened in Burma.*"

GERMANS KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT WAR, EXCEPT HOW TO WIN

*(From the **Madras War Review**).*

Britain's Prime Minister is one of the few men in Europe who have watched every stage of the development of the German Empire into the Third Reich. In his latest book—*Thoughts and Adventures*—he gives a remarkable picture of Germany as she was at the very beginning of this development.

Yet development somehow hardly seems the right word, writes Harold Hobson in *London Calling*. It implies growth, and that again implies change. And in the case of Germany there appears to be no change at all. A monarchy has become a republic. A Kaiser has given way to a Fuehrer. But both Kaiser and Fuehrer have the same arrogance, the same scorn for the rights of other peoples, the same contempt for their opponents, the same uncontrollable ambition, the same mad urge towards destruction and disaster.

In *Thoughts and Adventures* Mr. Churchill goes back to 1906. In that year he was Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, and he received from the German Emperor an invitation to attend, as his guest, the annual manœuvres of the German Army in Silesia, just as, not so very long ago, the representatives of the democratic powers used to be invited to be present at the annual jamborees and flag-wagging and drum-thumping and hysterical speeches of the Nazi Party at Nuremberg. When the Germans went in for this sort of thing—and they went in for it constantly—they did it thoroughly. Every night there was a 'glittering full-dress banquet'; the guests went to bed about midnight, and they were got up again at three or four the next morning and shot off to the manœuvring ground, where the daily display of German might began at dawn and continued for ten or twelve hours. Then there was another banquet, another few hours' sleep, another twelve hours' display, and another banquet, and so on. The idea seems to have been to tire the guests out, so that they might surrrender all the more readily to the spectacle of German power unfolded before them.

FORMIDABLE AND EVEN STUPEFYING

And what a spectacle it was! "In the Review," says Mr. Churchill, "which preceded the manœuvres, 50,000 horse, foot, and artillery marched past the Emperor and his galaxy of kings and princes. The infantry, regiment by regiment, in line of battalion quarter columns, reminded one more of great Atlantic rollers than human formations. Clouds of cavalry, avalanches of field guns and—at that time a novelty—squadrons of motor-cars (private and military) completed the array. For five hours the immense enfilade continued. Yet this was only a twentieth part of the armed strength of the Regular German Army before mobilization; and the same martial display could have been produced simultaneously in every province of the Empire."

No wonder this tremendous display made Churchill think rather seriously. "I thought," he says "of our tiny British Army, in which the parade of a single division and a brigade of cavalry at Aldershot was a notable event. I watched from time to time the thoughtful, sombre visage of the French Military Attaché, who sat on his horse beside me absorbed in reflections which it would not have been difficult to plumb. The very atmosphere was pervaded by a sense of inexhaustible and exuberant manhood and deadly panoply. The glories of this world and force abounding could not present a more formidable, and even stupefying, manifestation."

Now, here comes the enormous German paradox. The Germans glory in war. They prepare for war. They devote most of their genius to war. They submit to all kinds of sacrifices in order that their General Staff may have all the men and all the weapons of precisely the sort it wants. They choose their opponents. They choose the time of attack. They go in at the most favourable moment, with the most overwhelming strength. And then they lose. They lost in 1918. They are losing now. The Germans know everything about war, except how to win.

It's an extraordinary thing, this. What is the reason? Mr. Churchill does not tell us exactly in so many set phrases. But his mind constantly returns to the German problem, and the alert reader can easily find in his pages brilliant indications why the Germans invariably finish their fights by being knocked through the ropes.

U-BOAT STRUGGLE OF THE LAST WAR.

One of them is to be found in the enthralling account that Mr. Churchill gives of the U-boat struggle in the last war, which is closely parallel to the battle under the water going on to-day. It began in 1916, this life-and-death struggle of the Royal Navy with the German U-boats........."It was a warfare hitherto undreamed of among men, a warfare at once more merciless and complicated than had ever been conceived. All the known sciences, every adaptation of mechanics, optics, and acoustics that could play a part, were pressed into its service. It was a war of charts and calculations, of dials and switches, of experts who were also heroes, of tense, patient thought interrupted by explosions and death ; of crews hunted and choked in the depth of the waters, and great ships foundering far from port without aid or mercy. And upon the workings of this grisly process turned the history of the world."

That is what Mr. Churchill says about the submarine peril of the last war. We have the same peril to-day. But with this difference. In the last war there was unrestricted U-boat attack for two years only. The war had been on for twenty-five months before it started. In this war the Germans were not restrained by any scruples at any time. They threw in their submarines from the very beginning, and we have had to fight that menace for more than forty months.

Now the point about the unrestricted U-boat warfare of the last war is that it brought the United States in against Germany. By adding to the list of enemies of Germany an immensely powerful and brave nation, the Germans themselves made their own victory impossible. That is what they always do. They put on the bridge more than it will bear. For all their blatant and brilliant propaganda, the Germans lack the political art of limiting the number of their enemies. Sooner or later they build up against themselves an irresistible and huge coalition. They did that in the last war and they have done it again in this. Both times they have brought in America against them. They cut their own throats with submarines once. And now they have done it again with Japs. They are an ambitious and brave people, but stupid—oh, so stupid !

69396

PURELY MILITARY CONSIDERATION.

But there is another reason Mr. Churchill hints at. This is that the Germans judge by purely military considerations. At the end of 1917 the Germans might possibly have made peace. The Allies might have been in the mood to consider the possiblity of an armistice. If they had gained an armistice then, the German people would have avoided untold misery. But, says Mr. Churchill, " First Quartermaster-General Ludendorff, mounted on the German General Staff, dominated not only the military but the political scene, and Ludendorff had other ideas. The realities of war had reduced the Emperor to a mere function of the wartime situation. The political system of Germany was not such as to throw up from the Parliamentary machine the audacious or rugged figures that had seized the helm in England or France. Everything in Germany had been sacrificed to the military view. On every occasion the General Staff had had their way, and now this intense and mighty organism, at once the strength and ruin of the German Empire,

JL

focussed itself in "what for the actual guidance of events was virtually a Ludendorff Dictatorship."

And so Ludendorff did not make peace, but war. At a conference at Mons on November 11, 1917, exactly one year before the end, Ludendorff declared: "The British must be beaten," and at dawn on March 21, 1918, sixty-six German divisions, with 375 field, 297 heavy, and twenty-eight super-heavy batteries or altogether 6,200 guns were launched against a front held by nineteen British divisions. But the assault, though powerful, was not powerful enough. "Everyone knows," says Mr. Churchill, "how the line of the British Fifth Army was bent backwards with a loss of 150,000 men and 1,000 guns, and how the Germans pressed into the ever distending bulge in their march upon Amiens; how General Pétain resolved to break contact with the British Army, and reserve the whole French Force for the defence of Paris; how, nevertheless, the thin line was never broken; how the British right-hand and the French left, joined as they had been during four shattering years, were destined not to be unclasped till victory was won."

NO LOVE FOR THE LAST DITCH.

Now Ludendorff had chosen war. But as soon as war began to go against him, he repented bitterly. On August 8 his army was cut to pieces. He called it "the black day of the German Army." And it sent him, literally, into fits. He decided with the utmost suddenness that Germany was beaten. He lost his nerve completely, He clamoured for instant surrender. It was a pitiful exhibition. The Germans, it seems, have no love for the last ditch. They don't like fighting with their backs to the wall. They lack the supreme military virtue. That is why they lose.

By the way, of all the high officers of the old Imperial German Army, the one who, right from the start, most favoured and supported Adolf Hitler in his bid for power in Germany, was this same Ludendorff, who surrendered so quickly that he took the Allied Generals by surprise. Hitler, of course, says that he will never surrender. That is what he has told the German people. He thinks himself made of sterner stuff than his old military friend. Well, we shall see—perhaps before very long. We can afford to be patient. We are watching.

And so is Winston Churchill.

TOMMY COMPLETES DUCE'S BOAST.

Soldiers of the Indian Army, sweeping through North Africa with the victorious 8th Army, have had a good laugh at the expense of Mussolini's lightning legions.

With typical arrogance, the strutting little Dictator had erected a signboard, with a boastful message of how the Italians were going to march into Egypt.

The laugh was in the last line. "Nothing can stop the Italian Army," proudly proclaimed Mussolini. The ending was the contribution of a British Tommy, who added the words—"When it is in retreat."

JAPS SLAY WOUNDED COMRADE.

Three Japanese air-men, emerging from their crashed bomber, north of Buthidaung, deliberately killed an injured comrade in order to prevent him falling into our hands alive.

Two bombers came down in the Taung Bazar area. The occupants of one were dead. The three unhurt occupants of the other aircraft ordered local inhabitants to provide materials for a stretcher.

Just as the stretcher was being prepared, sounds were heard which made the Japs believe that our troops were approaching. One of them promptly seized his sword and killed the wounded air-man with a thrust in the stomach. Then they escaped.

PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU.

PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CXLVI (*Batch 5*).

15- 5-43	Municipal Office	...	6.00 p.m.
16- 5-43	Tiruvarangulam	...	7.00 ,,
,,	Vamban	...	7.30 ,,
17- 5-43	Tirumayyam	...	7.00 ,,
,,	Melur	...	7.30 ,,
18- 5-43	Pallivasal	...	7.00 ,,
,,	Pillamangalam.	...	7.30 ,,
19- 5-43	P. Puduppatti	...	7.00 p.m.
,,	Vendampatti	...	7.30 ,,
20- 5-43	Vellanur	...	7.00 ,,
,,	Sembattur	...	7.30 ,,
21- 5-43	Puliyur	...	7.00 ,,
,,	Kannangudi	...	7.30 ,,

LECTURE CXLVII. (*Batch 1.*)

22- 5-43	Municipal Office	...	6.00 p.m.
23 -5-43	Kilanilai	...	7.00 ,,
,,	Kilanilai-Puduppatti..		7.30 ,,
24 -5-43	Perumanadu	...	7.00 ,,
,,	Pulvayal	...	7.30 ,,
25- 5-43	Sadayampatti	...	7.00 ,,
,,	Oliyamangalam	...	7.30 ,,
26- 5-43	Malaikkudippatti	...	7.00 p.m.
,,	Tulaiyanur	...	7.30 ,,
27- 5-43	Malampatti	...	7.00 ,,
,,	Perambur	...	7.30 ,,
28- 5-43	Alavayal	...	7.00 ,
,,	Ammankurichchi	...	7.30 ,,

RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

15— 5—43	Tirumayyam.
16— 5—43	Tittanviduthi.
17— 5—43	Arimalam.
18— 5—43	Perambur.
19— 5—43	Karambakkudi.
20— 5—43	Kilanilai.
21— 5—43	Pudukkottai.
22— 5—43	Vettamviduthi.
23— 5—43	Marudankoneviduthi.
24— 5—43	Mullangurichchi.
25— 5—43	Konapattu.
26— 5—43	Rayavaram.
27— 5—43	Kulipirai.
28— 5—43	Pudukkottai.

REWARD.

INFORMATION OF ENEMY WARSHIPS, MINES AND MINELAYING.

The Government of India offer the following rewards to members of the general public for valuable and authentic information about enemy warhips, enemy mine-laying activities, and mines at sea or ashore.

	Amount not to exceed a maximum of Rs.
For accurate information, furnished at the earliest possible opportunity, which leads directly to the capture or destruction of an important enemy war-vessel	12,500
For accurate and valuable information, rendered at the earliest possible opportunity, of the movements and activities of enemy war-vessels, including those engaged in minelaying.	600
For accurate information of enemy floating or moored mines, or of the dropping of parachute mines, or of British floating or aircraft mines, in or near a navigable waterway, to the person or vessel first furnishing the information ...	60
For the first report of a British or foreign mine washed ashore and recovered	12
Or if the mine is of a new or especially important type ...	60
For the recovery of floats, mine-sinkers, mine fragments, or other objects of enemy origin, if of patterns not previously known or which yield new information	60

The amounts awarded, within the total sums stated, will be decided by the Government of India according to the value of the information received. If a report is received from a ship, the Government of India will determine how the award should be divided between the Master and members of the crew.

Reports must be made to the nearest Naval Authority, Port Authority, Coast-guard, Customs Officer, or Police Officer. Full details must be given, including time, date and position, and in the case of an enemy warship, its name, description, course and speed. If possible, reports should be in writing, but on no account must they be delayed.

Important—Members of the public and other unauthorized persons are warned of the extreme danger of interfering with, or remaining in the vicinity of mines washed ashore.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 750—15-5-43.